[3rd March 1955

Appendix II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 1051 asked by Sri K. Aranganathan at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 3rd March 1955, at page 327 supra.]

At present only a pilot lignite quarrying project is in progress to determine the economic fertility of a large-scale integrated scheme for the mining and utilisation of lignite. During the mining of lignite, fire clay, white clay and water will also be obtained. Lignite can be processed to yield raw lignite briquettes, carbonised briquettes, carbonised dust, tar, phenol, nitrogenous fertilisers, motor spirit, diesel oil and sulphuric acid.

Fire clay is suitable for manufacturing fire bricks, stoneware pipes, etc., and white clay is suitable for manufacturing crockery, low and high tension insulators, sanitaryware, etc., and for use as fillers in the textile, rubber and paper industries and for medicinal compositions. Water which will be available in fairly large quantities from the artesian aquifer will be adequate for the industrial plants proposed to be located at Neyveli, such as, Thermal Station, Fertiliser Plant, Briquetting Plant and for water-supply for the colony. Any surplus which may be available could be used for irrigation.

Lignite can be made into briquettes which can be used as fuel for industrial plants at the spot. The lignite can also be carbonised and transported to long distances for use as industrial and domestic fuel. During the carbonization of lignite briquettes, tar can be obtained and used as liquid fuel in boilers and furnaces and will also serve as raw material for making various chemicals including sulphur and motor spirit and diesel oil. Fractional distillation of lignite can yield oils which will be suitable for use as wood preservatives and disinfectants and also pitch which can be used as a constituent of road tar and as a source for electrode carbon used in the electro-chemical industries like aluminium production, etc. Another product obtained by processing lignite is montan wax, which can be used for manufacturing polishes, insulating materials, gramaphone records, wax, papers, etc., and for explosives.